

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RENEWABLE ENERGY**

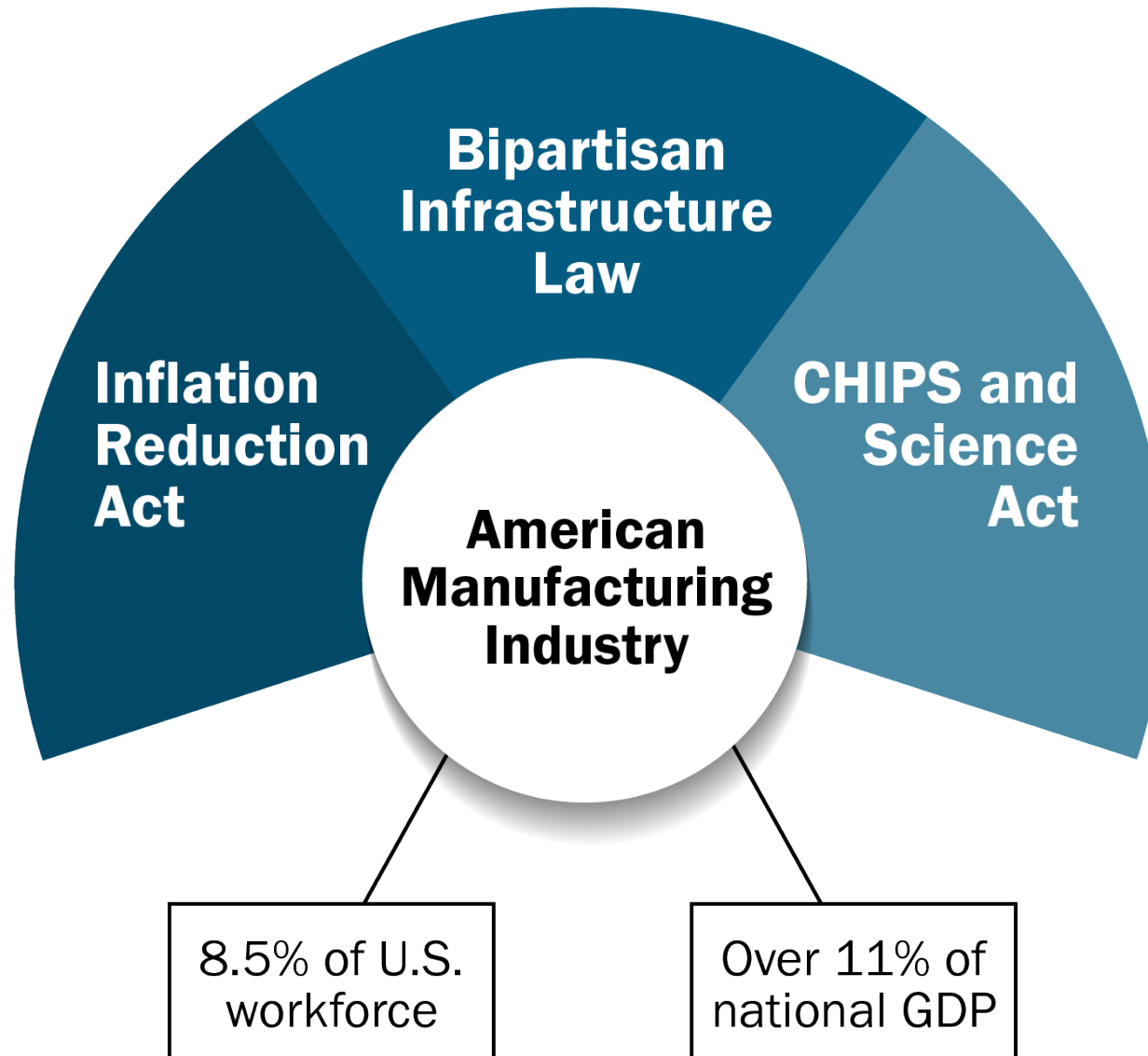
ADVANCED MATERIALS &  
MANUFACTURING  
TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE

A woman in a blue uniform and white hard hat is interacting with a white robotic arm in a factory setting. She is holding a tablet and looking at the arm. The background shows a large industrial facility with a complex steel structure and various pieces of equipment.

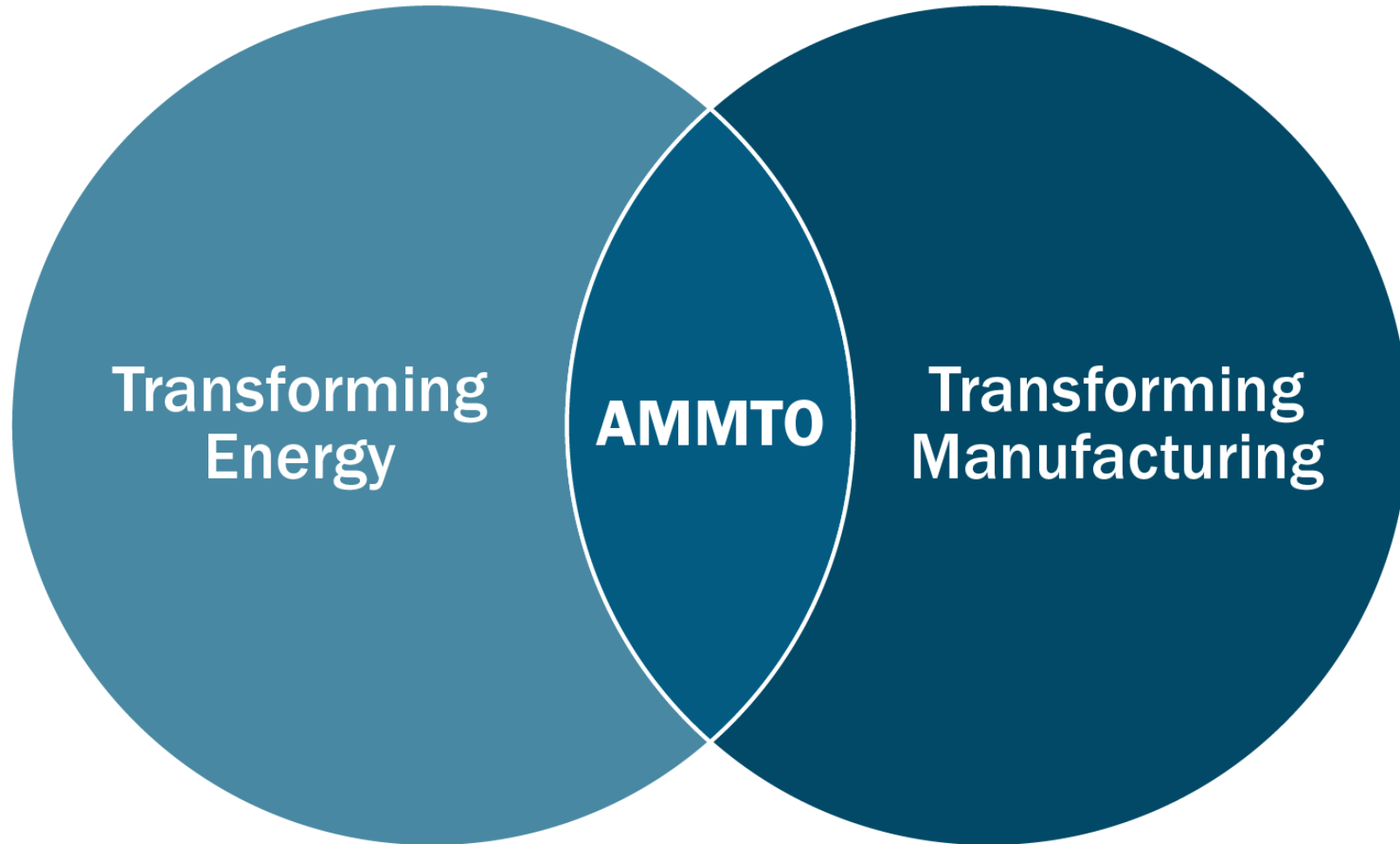
# Perspectives and Progress on Critical Materials

Helena Khazdozian, PhD  
Senior Technology Manager

# Unprecedented Federal Investment in Manufacturing



# AMMTO's Unique Role in American Manufacturing



# What is AMMTO All About?

## Vision

A globally competitive U.S. manufacturing sector that accelerates the adoption of innovative materials and manufacturing technologies in support of a clean, decarbonized economy.

## Mission

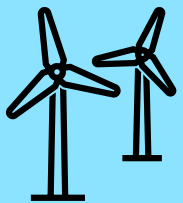
We inspire people and drive innovation to transform materials and manufacturing for America's energy future.

# AMMTO's Subprogram Structure

## NEXT-GENERATION MATERIALS & PROCESSES

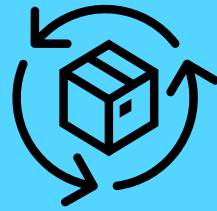


Advanced Manufacturing Processes and Systems

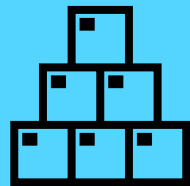


High Performance Materials

## SECURE & SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS



Circular Economy Technologies and Systems

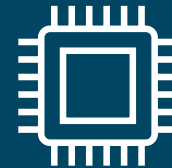


Critical Materials

## ENERGY TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURING & WORKFORCE



Energy Conversion and Storage Manufacturing



Semiconductors, Electronics, and Other Technologies Manufacturing



Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Advanced Mfg. Workforce



# Critical Minerals & Materials (CMM) RD&D in AMMTO

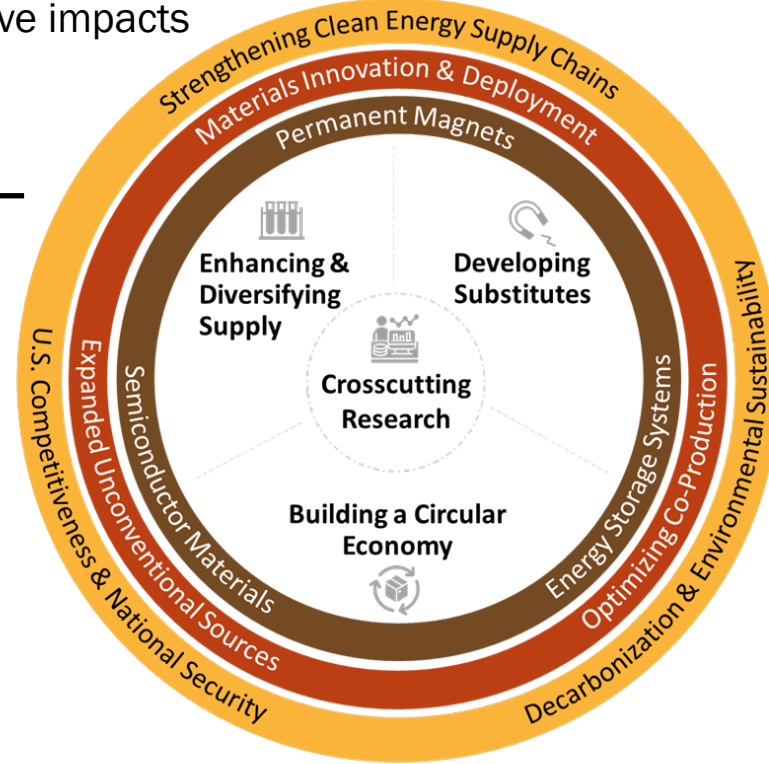
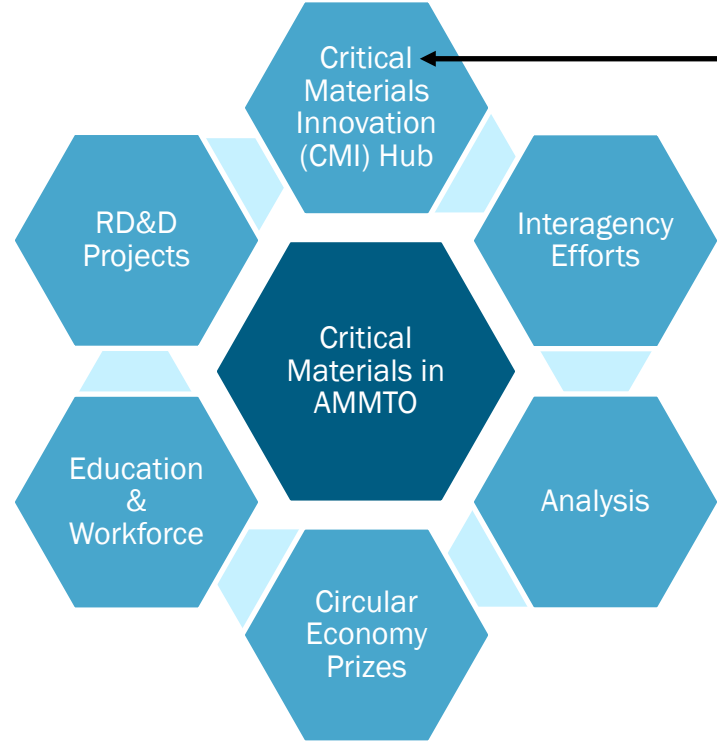
*AMMTO's CMM portfolio addresses high-impact opportunities and challenges across the entire life cycle of high priority CMM for energy technologies*

- Research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) for high-priority critical minerals and materials, aligned with the DOE Critical Minerals and Materials Strategy, to:
  - Build **resilient domestic supply chains** to support the clean energy transition
  - **Accelerate adoption of innovative S&T solutions** to improve efficiency and reduce negative impacts
  - Foster a **robust innovation ecosystem** to meet industry and research **workforce needs**

## RD&D Projects

- R&D to advance next-generation technologies, in coordination with the CMI Hub
- [Lithium RD&D Virtual Center](#) to integrate and expand the innovation ecosystem
- Demonstrate improved industrial technologies to address supply chain gaps
- De-risk and validation of innovation through the [Critical Materials Accelerator Program](#)

## Critical Materials Assessment



# The “Electric Eighteen”

## Critical Materials – The Building Blocks for Electrification

Neodymium, Praseodymium, Dysprosium, & Terbium



**Magnets** for wind turbine generators & EV motors

Cobalt, Lithium, Graphite, Nickel & Fluorine



**Batteries** for electric vehicles & grid storage

Iridium & Platinum



**Electrolyzers** for green hydrogen production & fuel cells used energy storage

Gallium & Silicon Carbide\*



**Semiconductors** enable high voltage power & efficient lighting

Magnesium & Aluminum



**Lightweight alloys** in transportation

Silicon\*



**Solar panels**, lightweight alloys, electrical steel

Copper\* & Electrical Steel\*



Wind turbine **generators** & EV motors

### Goals



**100% clean electricity by 2035; Net-zero economy by 2050**



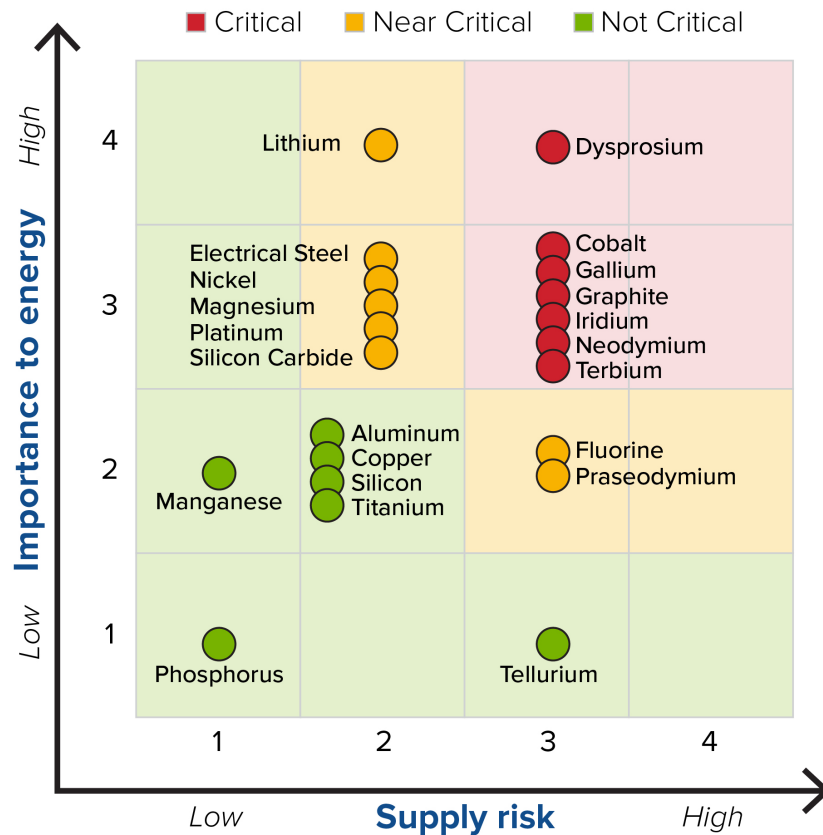
**50% EV adoption by 2030; 30 GW offshore wind by 2030; Cost of Clean Hydrogen \$1/kg by 2031**

*\*Not on the U.S. Geological Survey Critical Minerals List*

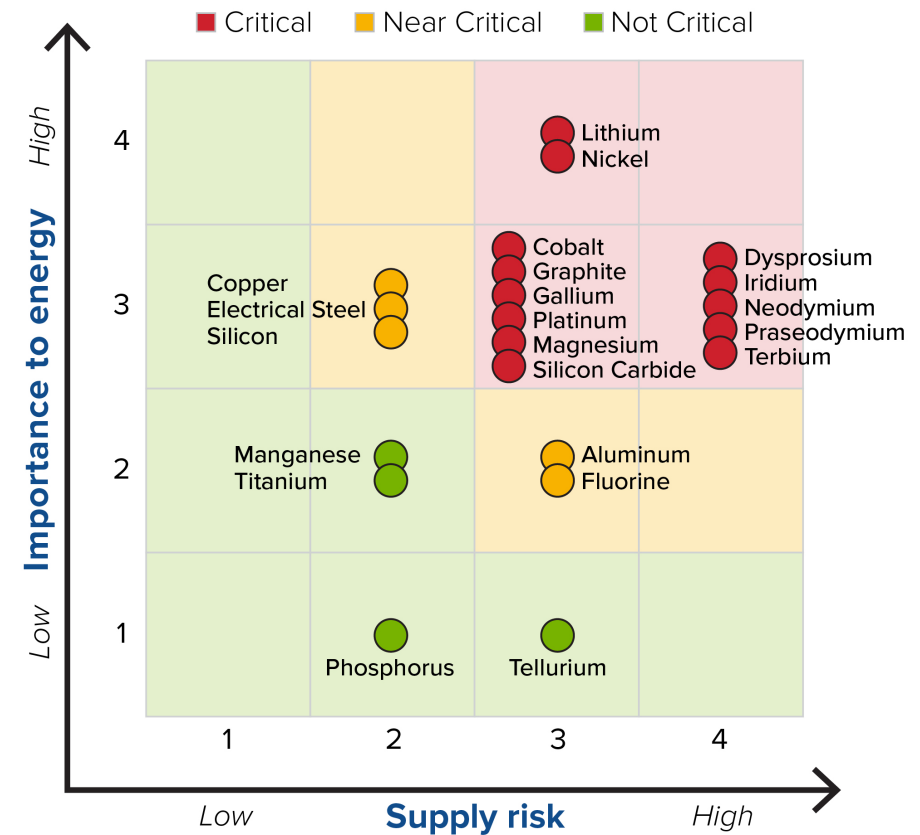
# Determining Material Criticality

Critical materials are materials that have high risk for supply disruption and serve an essential function in one or more energy technologies

SHORT TERM 2020-2025



MEDIUM TERM 2025-2035

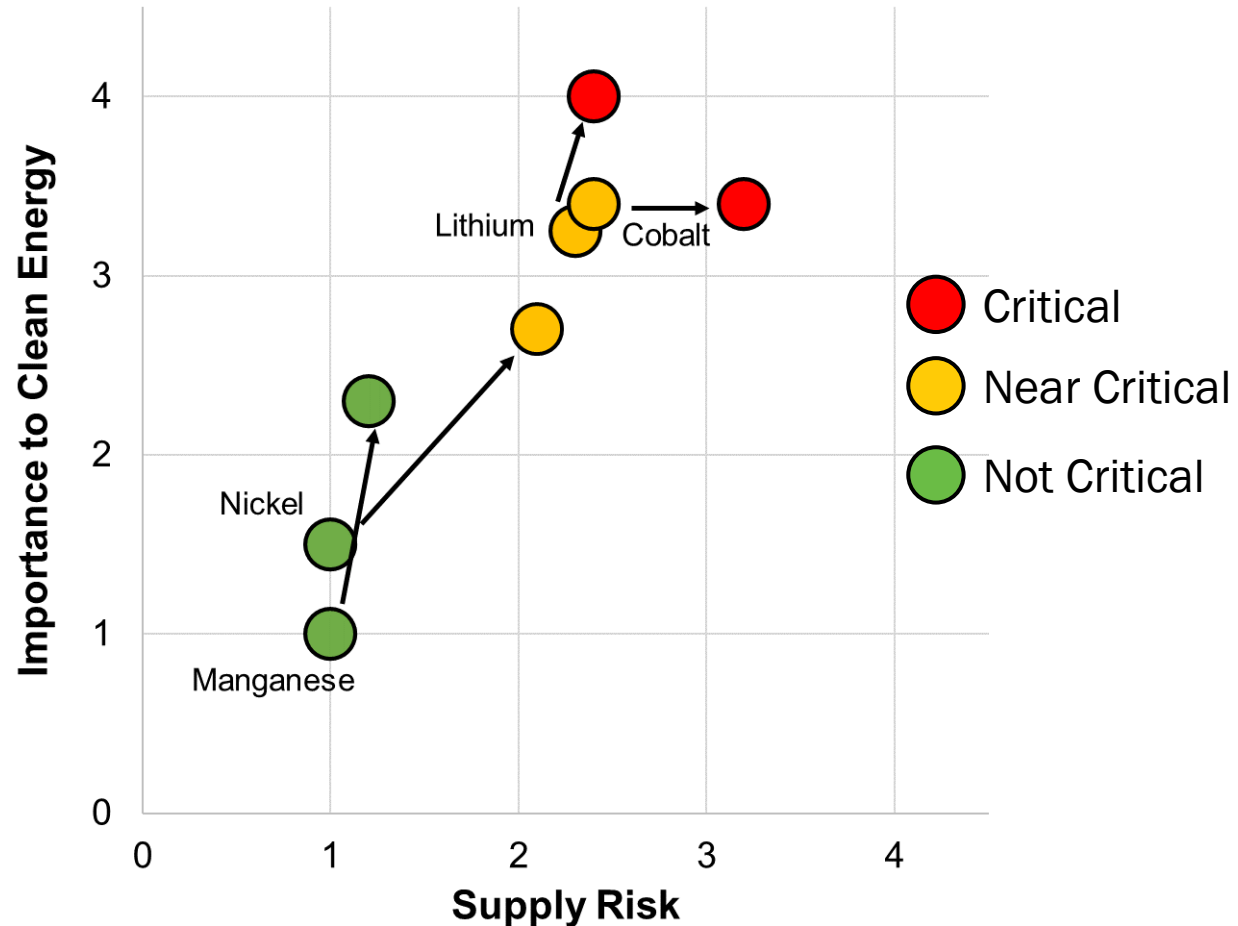


<https://www.energy.gov/cmm/what-are-critical-materials-and-critical-minerals>

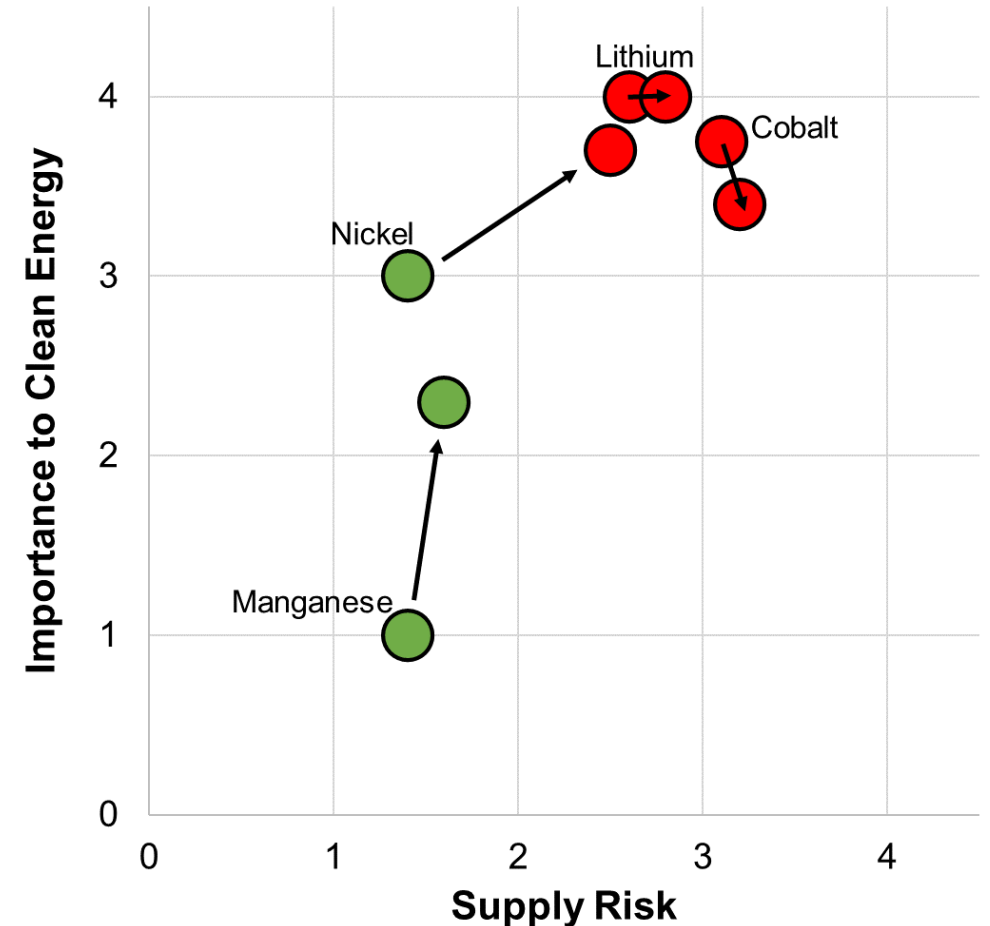


# Battery Materials: Criticality from 2019 to 2023

Short term criticality matrix

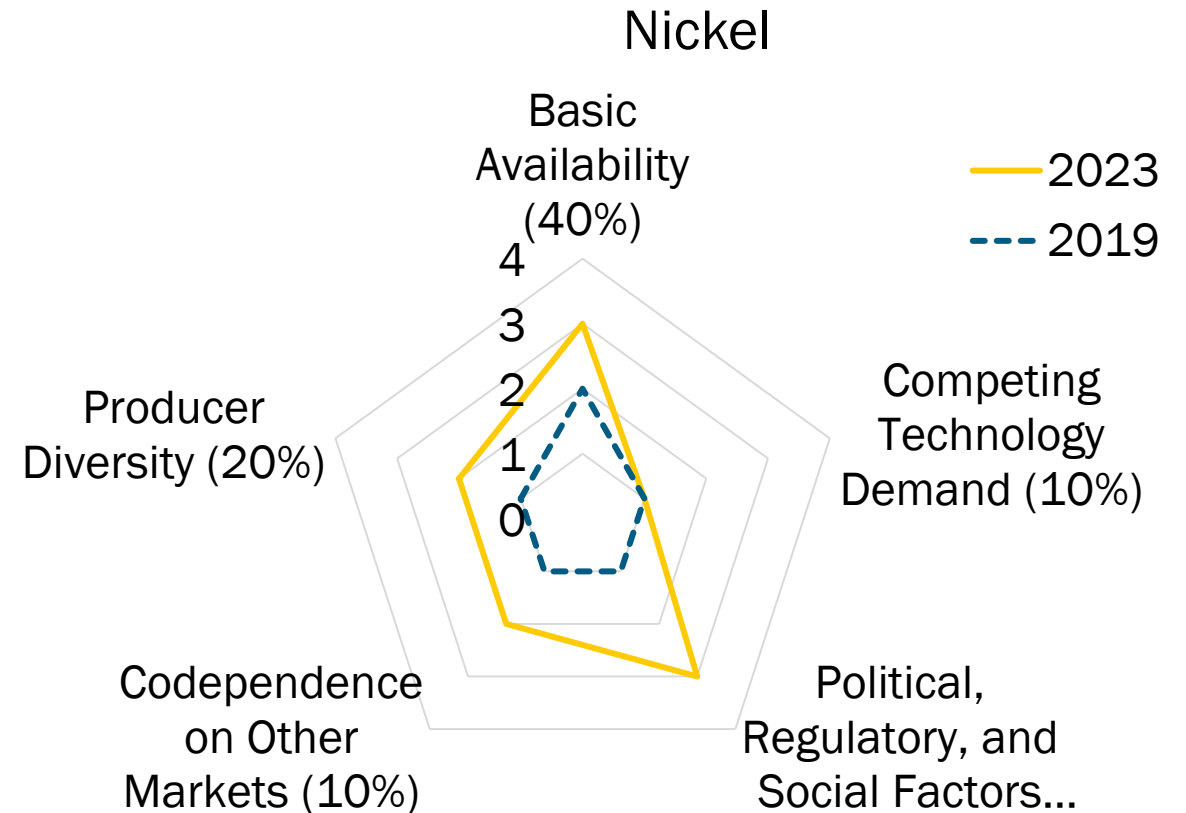


Medium term criticality matrix



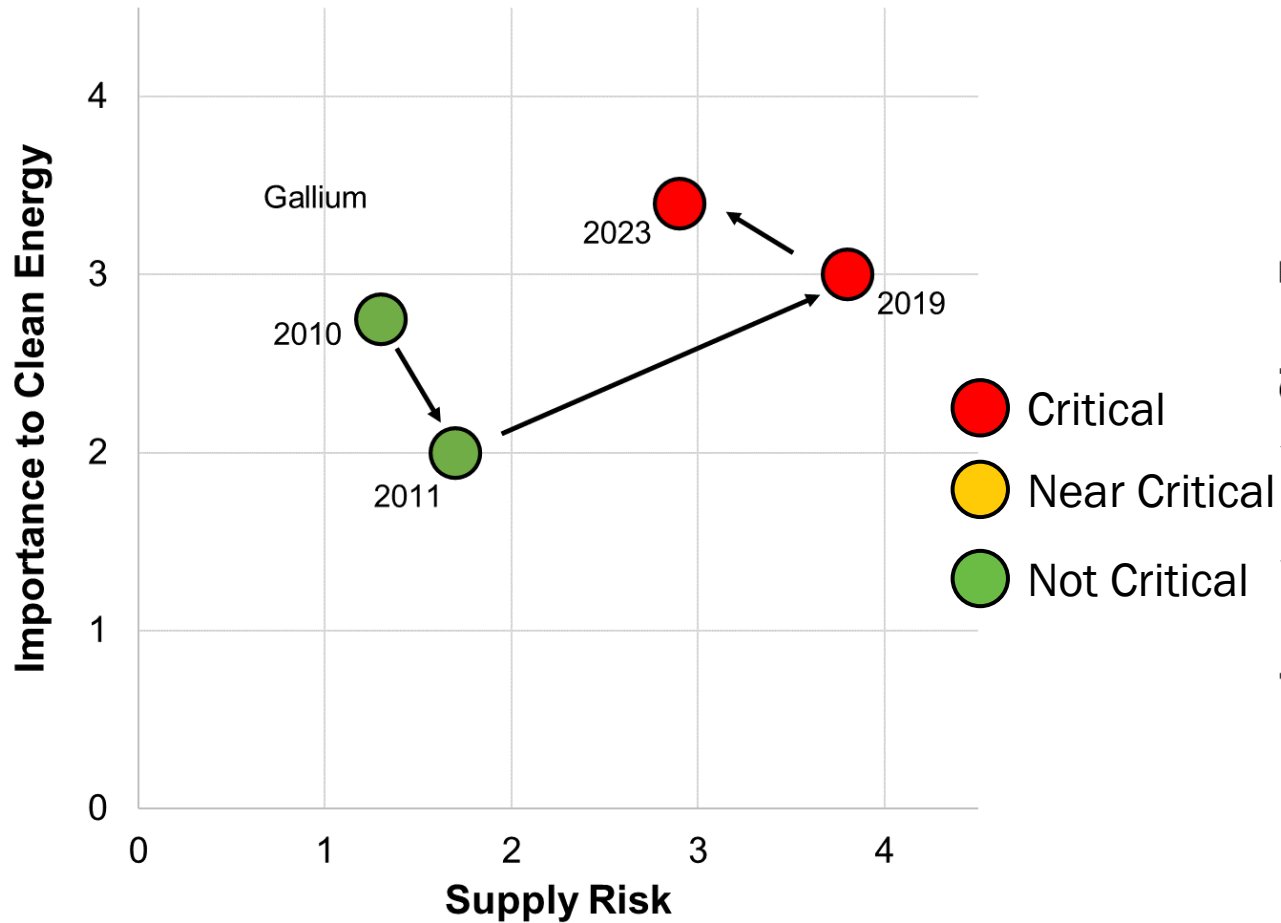
# Battery Materials: Nickel

- In the medium term, basic availability risk of nickel is underpinned by the broader availability of laterite ores compared to sulphide ores.
  - It is more costly to produce Class 1 nickel from laterite than sulphide ores.
  - Almost half of mined nickel is produced in Indonesia.
  - There is greater producer diversity for mining that is used to produce Class I nickel; Russia is the largest producer and refiner, followed by China.

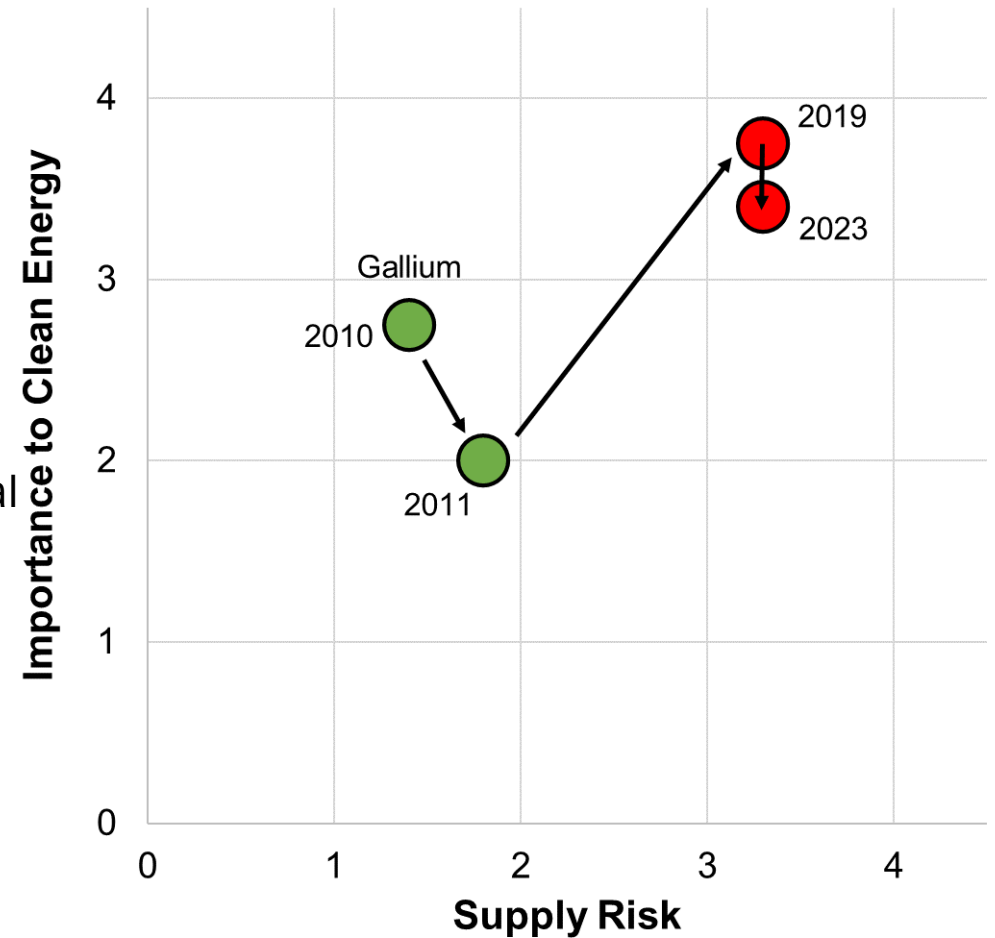


# Semiconductor Materials: Gallium

Short term criticality matrix

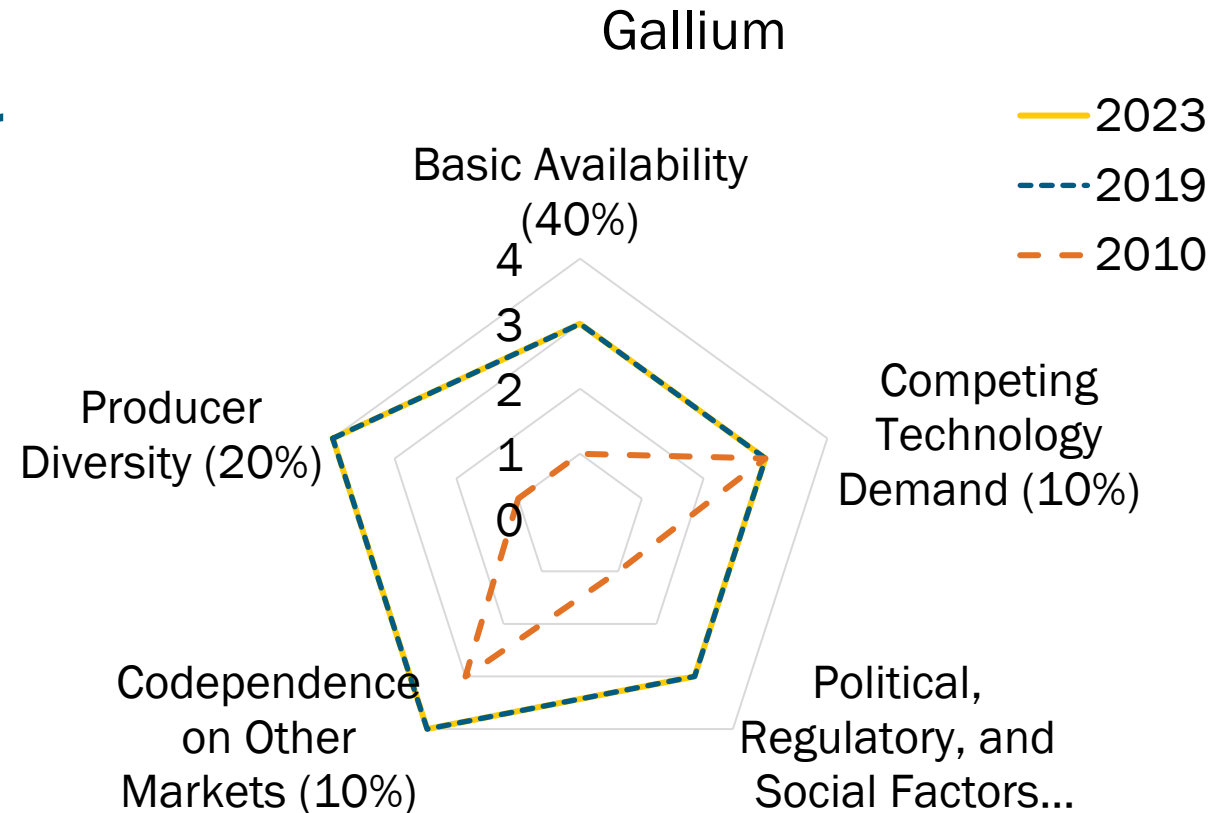


Medium term criticality matrix



# Semiconductor Materials: Gallium

- Gallium's importance to energy is driven by its use in LEDs, solar panels, power electronics, and magnets, accounting for ~77 to 87% of its market.
  - LEDs have gained a global market share of 50%.
- **Basic availability is a concern for both the short and medium terms**
  - 97% of market share for gallium production is in China. Production is not operating at capacity.
  - 90% of gallium is produced as a byproduct of bauxite.
  - Gallium is also produced as a byproduct of zinc residues.



# Critical Materials Innovation Hub (CMI Hub)

*formerly known as the Critical Materials Institute*

**Portfolio:** 32 early-stage research projects

**Innovative Ecosystem:** Network of 9 DOE National Laboratories, 20 Universities and 30 active private sector team members

Phase III of operations,  
building on **10 years of success**

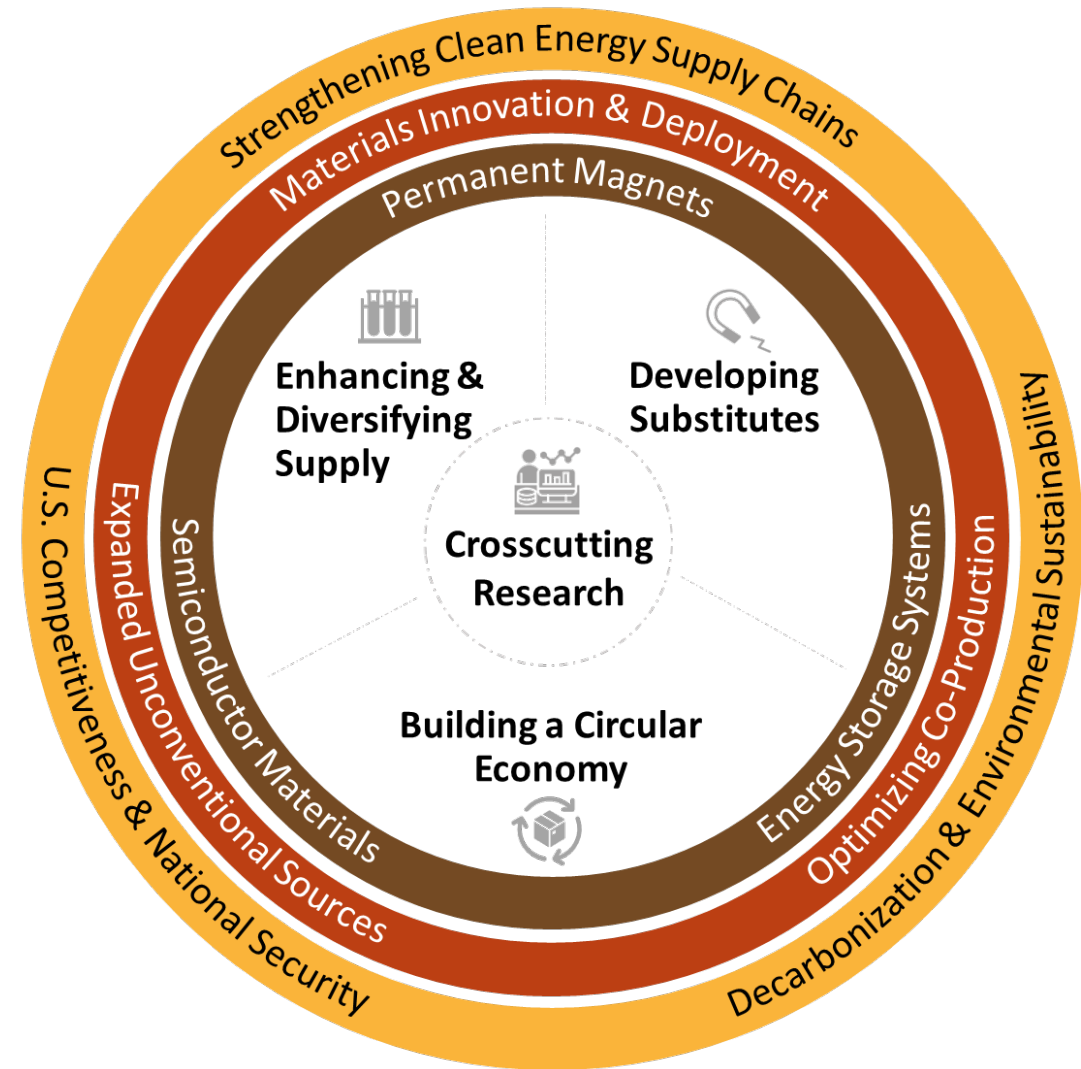
20  
Licensed  
Technologies

\$80M+  
Follow-on  
Funding

600+  
Refereed  
Publications

12  
R&D 100  
Awards

50  
Patents  
Awarded

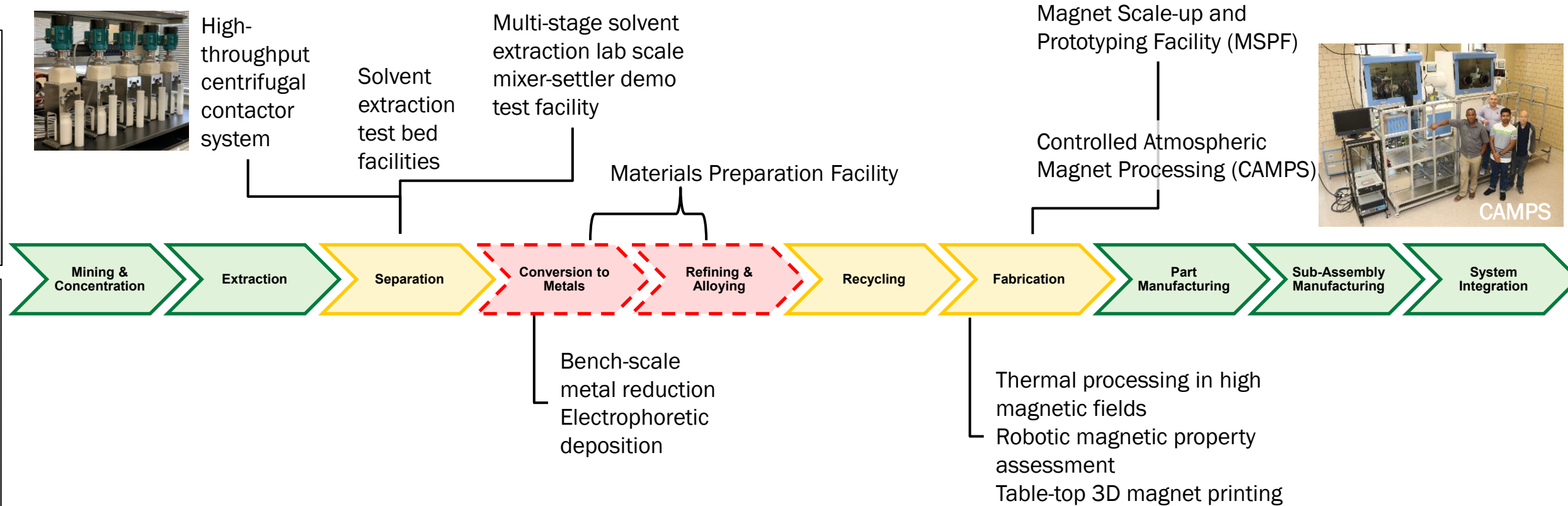




# CMI Hub Facilities & Capabilities

FACILITIES

CAPABILITIES

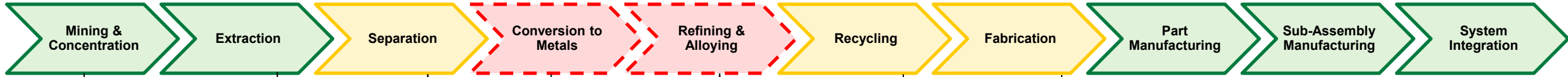


## Crosscutting Enabling Facilities & Capabilities

- Bulk and thin-film combinatoric library production facilities
- Rapid thermodynamic property assessment
- Micro-x-ray fluorescence analysis
- High precision adiabatic calorimeter
- Automated machine learning-assisted X-ray imaging defect detection
- Computational prediction and automated synthesis of molecules/ligands using AI/machine learning-augmented robotic systems to rapidly screen and identify new ligands
- Criticality assessment tools & techniques
- Open-source software to evaluate techno-economic analysis and life-cycle assessment
- Roadmapping

# CMI Hub Innovations – Magnet Supply Chain

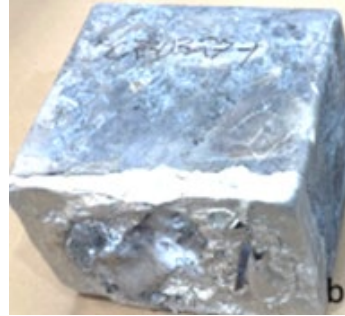
[Learn More: CMI Technologies with Magnets](#)



## Efficient Flotation



## Low Temperature Metallization

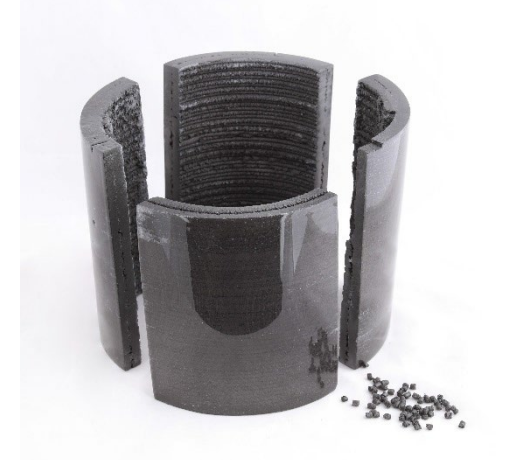


## Critical REE-Lean Magnets

## Cast Critical REE-Free Gap Magnets

## Hot-roll Dy-free Nanograin Neo Magnet

## Additively Manufactured Bonded Magnets



## One-step HCl Leaching

## Novel Ligands for Improved Oxide Separation



## Electrochemical, Acid-free, Bio-based, & Automated Recycling Technologies



## Membrane Solvent Extraction

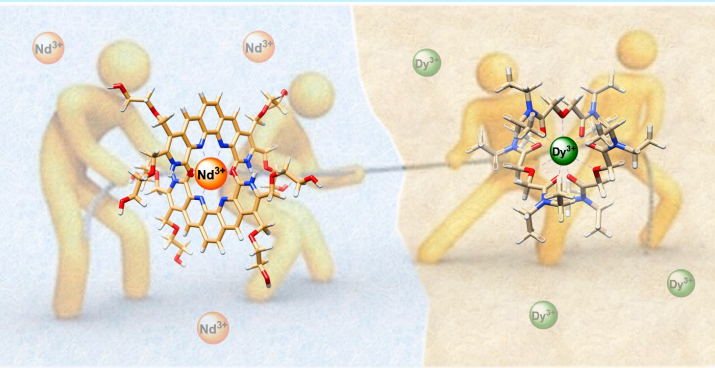


# From Basic Science to Commercialization

*Commercialization of highly selective processes is underpinned by basic science discovery*

## Basic Science

New strategies for separation of rare earth elements discovered through computation modeling and X-ray adsorption spectroscopy.



## Applied R&D

Novel ligands/extractants were designed that show improved separation of rare earth elements.

These outperform the industry standard with implications to reduce cost and footprint of the separation process.



## Technology Commercialization

CMI industry partner Marshallton Research Laboratories licensed the technology and is working to commercialize the production of the novel ligands to meet the needs from a variety of companies.

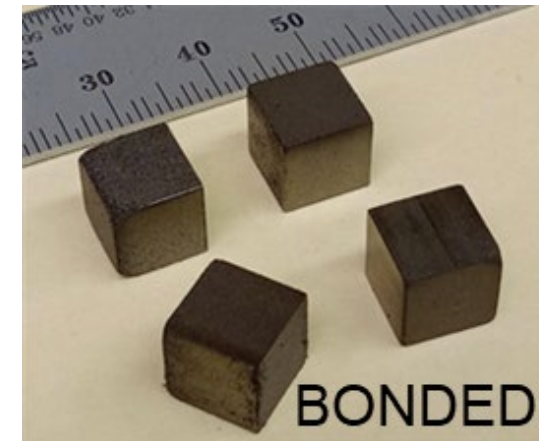
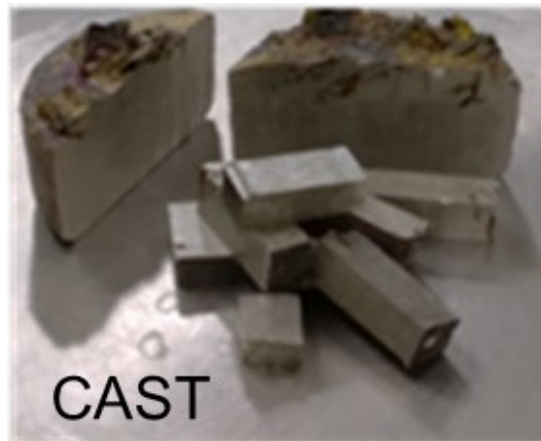
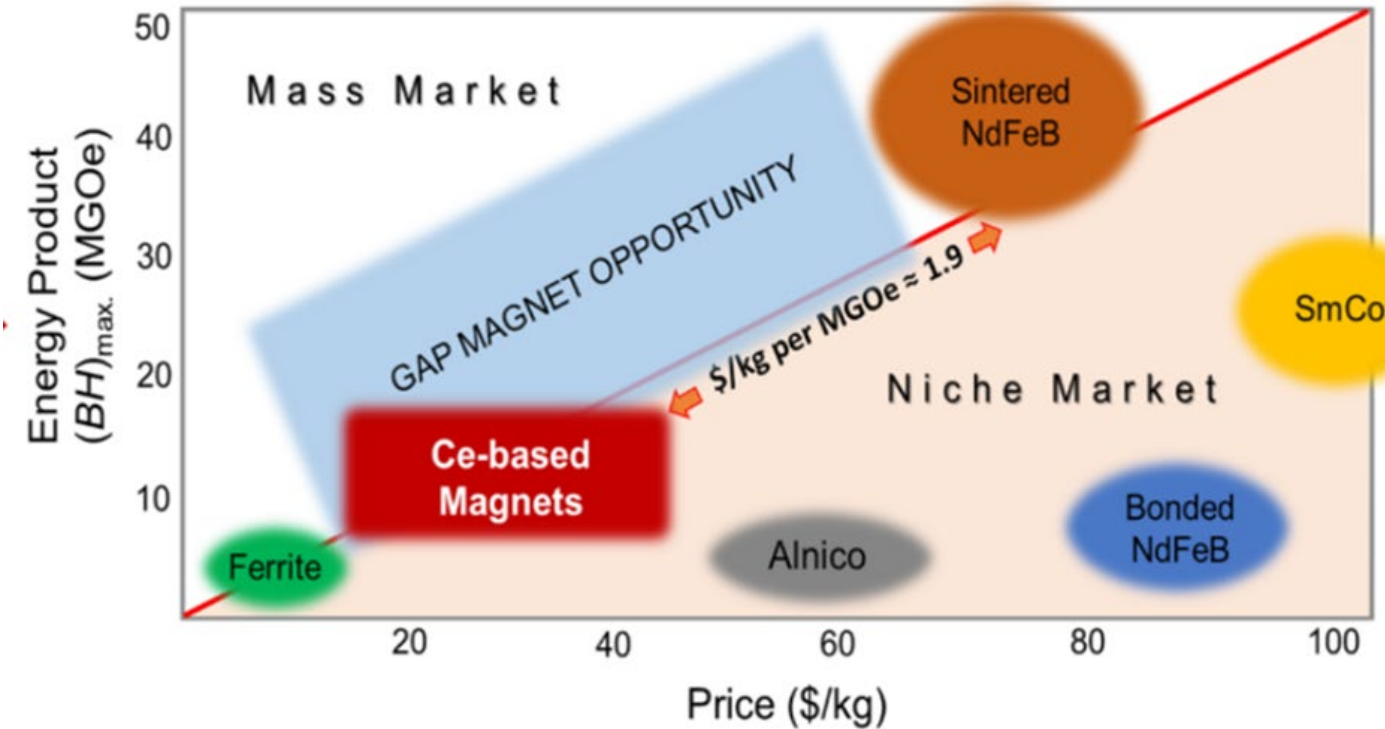


"We're working with several companies while also improving and scaling up manufacturing processes," Foster explains.

# “Gap” Magnets – Addressing the REE Balance Problem



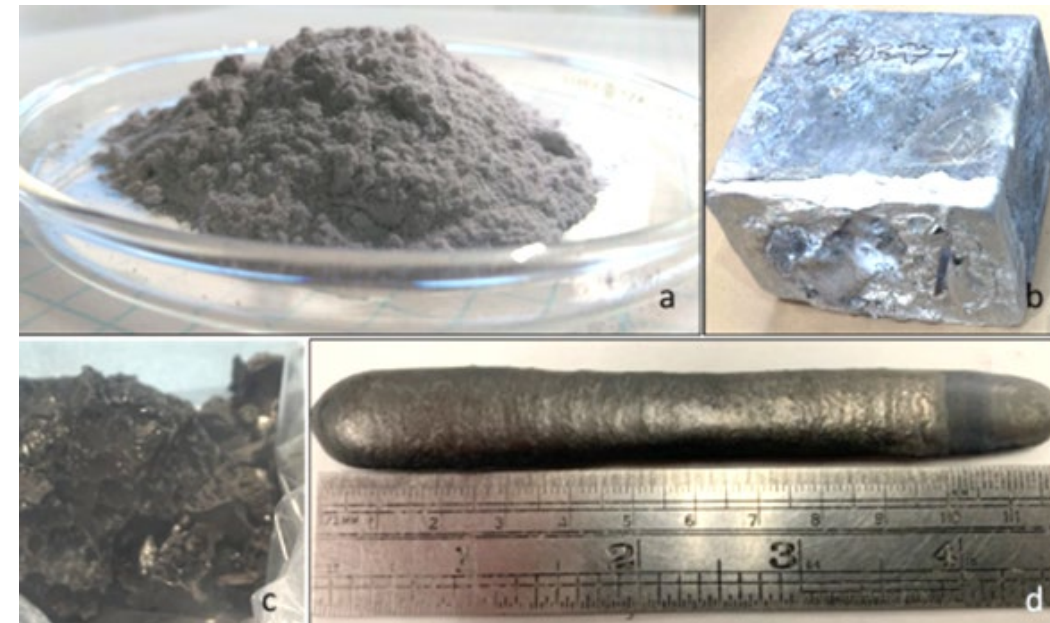
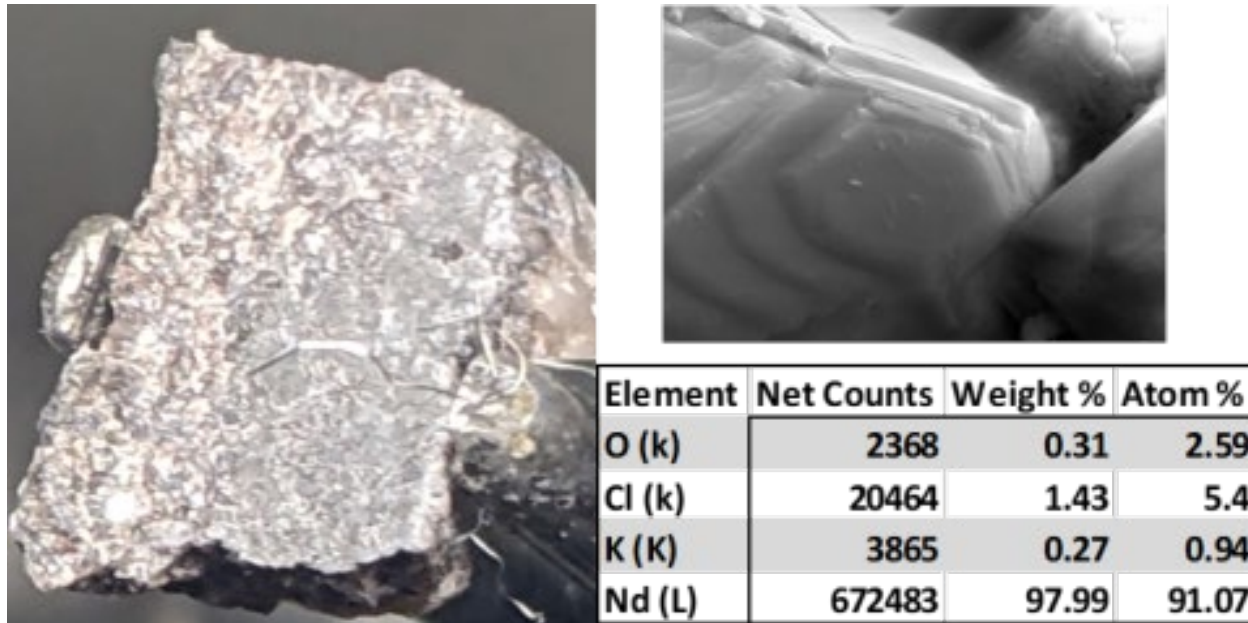
- One-step cast cerium-based “gap” magnet ingot
- 4 MGOe bonded magnet with 50% better remanence than bonded ferrite magnets



# Improved Metal Reduction

- Proprietary dimensionally-stable anode enables stable, energy-efficient neodymium electrolysis from chloride melts
- Eliminates CO<sub>2</sub> and PFC emissions

- Low temperature, semi-continuous reduction from neodymium salts





## Acid-free dissolution recycling

- Eliminates operational hazards and negative environmental impacts
- >99.5% pure NdPr and Dy oxide from e-waste (800 kg batch size)
- Modular scale-up



Shredded hard disk drives (HDDs) prior to recycling



Shredded HDDs after REEs leaching

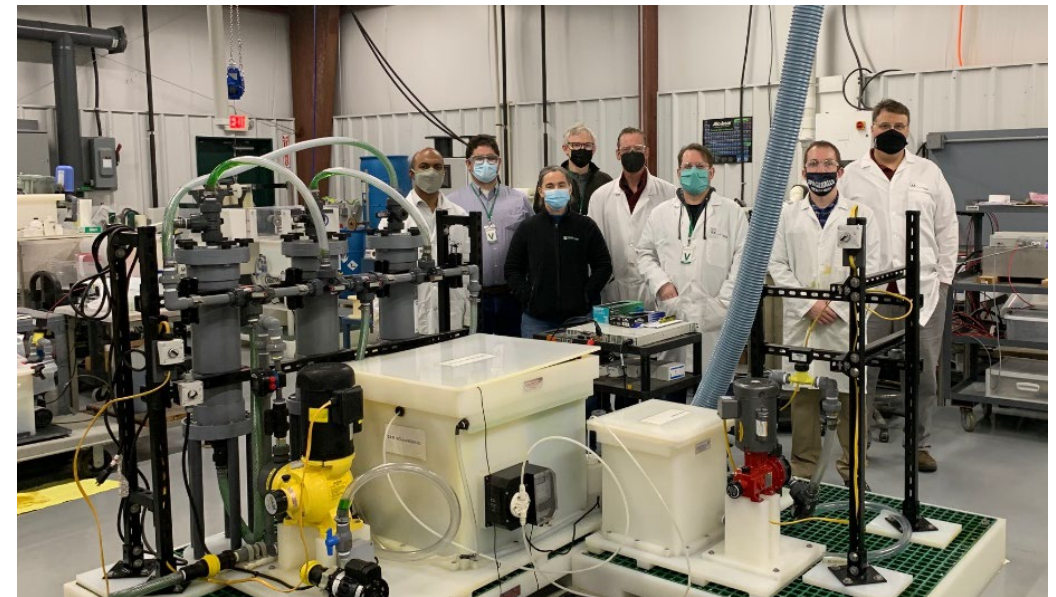


Sample of recovered rare earth oxide



## Electrochemical Recovery (E-RECOV)

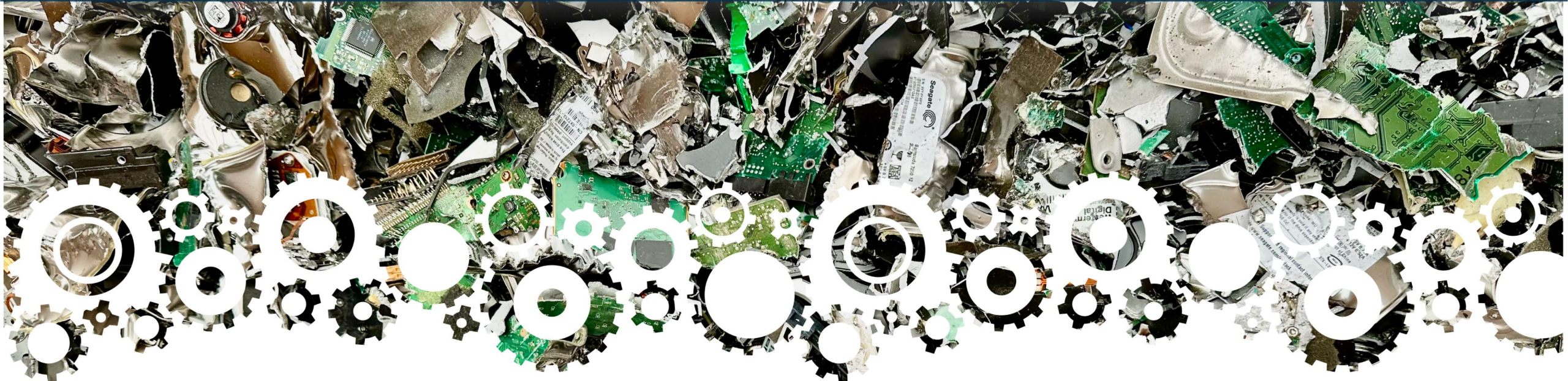
- Low temperature recovery of PGMs and REEs from e-waste
- No solvents used
- Co-recovery of gold, silver, steel





# Electronics Scrap Recycling Advancement Prize (E-SCRAP)

*Phase 1 Submission Due Sept. 4!*



## Phase 1

### **INCUBATE**

- Up to 10 winners
- \$50,000 cash prize per winner
- Up to \$50,000 of analysis consulting

## Phase 2

### **PROTOTYPE**

- Up to 5 winners
- \$150,000 cash prize per winner
- Up to \$100,000 of analysis technical support

## Phase 3

### **DEMONSTRATE**

- Up to 3 winners
- \$600,000 cash prize per winner



# Education & Workforce Development

Training the next-generation of scientists and engineers to address critical material needs for the nation

Over 300 CMI Hub alumni are applying their skills in roles at government, national labs, universities, and industry

- **CMI Leadership Academy**
  - Develops leadership management skills for a group of emerging leaders within the CMI community
- **CMI Winter Meeting at Mines**
  - Annual graduate and postdoctoral professional two-day research seminar
- **CMI Internships & Externships**
  - Research collaboration at CMI team member institutions
- **Educational Outreach**
  - Exhibit at the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum
  - K-12 educational toolkits for teachers and instructors
  - Webinars, professional societies, undergraduates, high-school students



# First-of-Kind Demonstration Projects

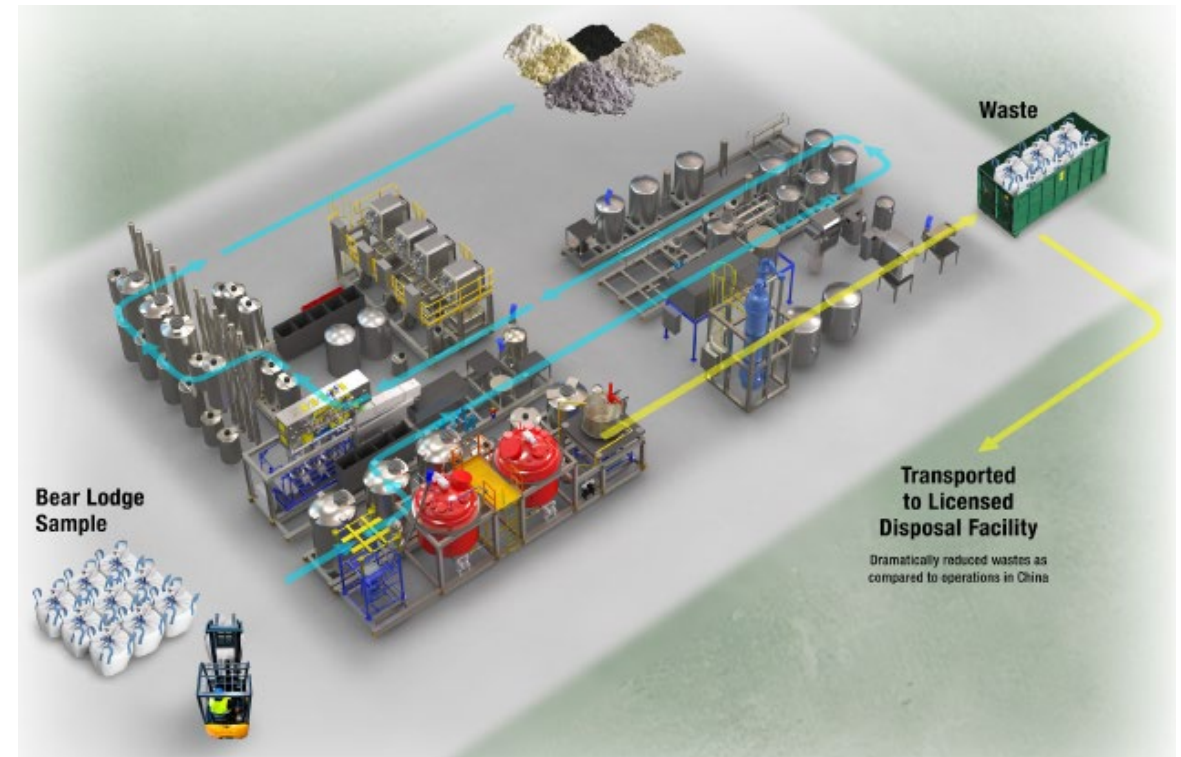
## Battery-Grade Lithium Hydroxide

- American Battery Technology Company – construction is complete!



## High Purity Separated Rare Earth Oxides

- General Atomics, RER, UIT – construction anticipated to be completed by Aug. 2024





# Stay Connected



Learn more about DOE's Critical Materials Program  
[energy.gov/cmm/critical-minerals-materials-program](https://energy.gov/cmm/critical-minerals-materials-program)



Connect with the CMC  
[energy.gov/cmm/critical-materials-collaborative](https://energy.gov/cmm/critical-materials-collaborative)  
[cmc@hq.doe.gov](mailto:cmc@hq.doe.gov)



Connect with the CMI Hub  
<https://www.ameslab.gov/cmi>  
Partner Relations: [sjoiner@ameslab.gov](mailto:sjoiner@ameslab.gov)

